

Vermont Alcohol and Drug Abuse  
Advisory Council

Department of Liquor Control  
13 Green Mountain Drive  
Montpelier, Vermont

Wednesday, September 24, 2014  
10:00AM – 12:00PM

**I. Welcome and introductions:**

**Welcome:**

Welcome everyone

**Introductions**

Mitch Barron  
Jackie Corbally  
Steve Waldo  
Barbara Cimaglio  
Marcia Laplante  
Lori Augustyniak  
Willa Farrell  
John Gramuglia  
Mark Weikert  
Jennifer Wall-Howard  
Mark Ames  
Rebecca Fenn  
Rita Johnson  
Chauncey Liese  
Donna McAllister  
Patrick Martin  
Michael Hogan

**Regrets**

Todd Bauman  
Amanda Fulmer  
Mark Depman  
Marcus Hass  
Greg Nagurney  
Matthew Birmingham

**II. Approval of the Minutes:** August 27, 2014 minutes approved

### III. Discussion with Dr. Chen

In this legislative session, there will be a focus on substance abuse. Prevention continues to be challenging, but we continue to make progress. We need to continue to focus on intensive community based interventions. Challenges include the size of the problem, and limited resources.

#### **Review of Position Statements:**

Alcohol, Marijuana, and Many More: The other Drugs of Abuse and Addiction: (Steve Waldo). Officers in the field are concerned about the enforcement of underage drinking (it seems to not be enforced as often as it was before). The Agency needs to consider how to keep officers engaged, interested, and trained. The lack of enforcement (in part due to funding) could lead to an increase in underage drinking. As funding decreases, departments tend to get back into silos and stop collaborating.

Legalization of marijuana is also a concern. There is a notion that we will follow what Colorado and Washington are doing, but in reality that are figuring things out as they go.

If legalization occurs, it would make sense to make the age 25 for purchase and use.

We need to figure out how to keep departments working together.

**Response:** The Rand Corporation is doing a report on the impact of legalization of marijuana. It would make sense to communicate those concerns to the Rand Corporation. No decision has been made, and this report will be used to guide decision making.

In terms of collaboration during hard times, make recommendations. We could for example have an underage drinking summit to bring that issue back into focus.

Redevelopment and Expansion of school-based and early interventions services for youth (Patrick Martin, Mark Weikert):

Don't forget alcohol

Return SAPs (and funding) to schools. Guidance counselors are overloaded as it is and cannot easily take on SAP responsibilities. In addition, education and prevention is becoming more of a challenge to the school systems as schools have to do more and more with less (i.e., gym teachers responsible for health education). Children are going into High School without having any

health education or any discussion about drug and alcohol use. Coalitions are also disappearing (due to funding cuts).

Many parents are also involved in this effort, but need ongoing support and education services (such as Wit's End).

**Response:** There are school standards that are overseen by the local school board (local school boards are in control of budget and cuts). Efforts should be focused, in part, at the local level. We do need a coordinated school health program that looks at the whole child. Changes would have to come at the local level and be driven by data (e.g. the youth risk behavior survey). In terms of the SAP program, there are benefits and we have tried to continue funding. This needs to also be seen as a program, and not an individual.

Improving Access, reducing obstacles: (Mitch Barron) We have a good, robust, and effective treatment system in Vermont. The biggest critique is that it is hard to access. The adolescent treatment grant has helped expand treatment access. How do we find funding and finance models that match the needs of people served, rather than old fee for service structures.

**Response:** that would be the goal of healthcare reform. We want to create a comprehensive system of care, which would address some of these funding concerns.

Community Solutions for Community Problems: A Re-Commitment to the Coalitions model of Promoting Community Health: (Lori Augustyniak). Coalitions are disappearing due to limited resources. The prevention model of community coalitions does work, and a reaffirmation from leaders that this is the case would be beneficial. Access to coalitions should be universal. It would also be useful to see across agency collaboration to address these issues. Broadening the focus of coalitions has watered down the message .

ACT 51 training (required by the state for teachers) has become optional, and sometimes non-existent. Communities with coalitions are trying to get those trainings reinstated, and reemphasize the importance of that training.

There are limited positive peer youth leadership opportunities. These were very useful in showing people what prevention looks like.

**Response:** We have been intentional to braid all of our funding together (at least at the health department). Be mindful about measuring outcomes (in terms of SAPs and Coalitions). AHS will continue to work with AOE and this will help make progress in school quality standards.

Ongoing Support for Long-Term Needs: investment and support for communities for recovery and resiliency (Mark Ames)

Initially, recovery centers were developed to create a safe place for people after recovery. Now addiction is recognized as a chronic disease. Vermont has been recognized as a national leader in this regard.

There are many amazing recovery and prevention services, but we need help promoting them. The Addiction problem is widely publicized, but we need to get more information out about recovery. We need to enhance support and treatment for families as well.

**Response:** How can you in this room work together to enhance recovery services?

There is a unique opportunity right now after the governor's forum and community forums. There is a lot of community awareness and involvement right now and we will pull together feedback and use that to guide next steps. The theme right now is being more coordinated.

#### **IV. ADAP Report:**

Rand Corporation will look at the landscape, expenditures, data, and the cumulative research compiled on marijuana from a variety of sources. They will look on supply, taxing, and regulation. They will also summarize lessons learned from Colorado and Washington. It is unlikely that the corporation will take a position on the issue, but instead provide a balanced overview.

We are facing another dire budget year. We will have to think about doing things differently, rather than getting more funding.

ADAP is recruiting for a Division Director. The position is posted online and in several states.

#### **Future Presentations/presenters:**

- (6/25) Invite a subject matter expert to present to the council about medication assisted treatment. (John Brooklyn, Stacey Sigmon).
- (7/23) Presentation on restorative justice as it relates to substance abuse.
- (7/23) How to meet the needs of youth - Youth mental health first aid (Todd Bauman is a trainer and can bring in materials)
- (7/23) Bobby Sand, Karen Genette, Monica Hutt - to discuss S295
- (9/24) Becky Penberthy (Restorative Center in Lamoille County), Presentation on restorative justice – **invite to October meeting**
- Hanna Rose